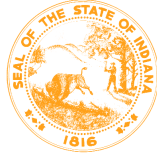


# Bob Bischoff

Indiana State Representative, District 68



Summer, 2001



Dear Friends:

The 2001 long session of the Indiana General Assembly has ended with the passage of a new state budget and several other important pieces of legislation. I am pleased we completed our work on time in a bipartisan manner.

The new two-year state budget includes increased funding for education, CHOICE and other important programs while avoiding a general tax increase. The budget also includes funding for several important local projects that are detailed inside this newsletter.

We passed several other laws that will benefit our state in a variety of areas, including health care, education, crime, election reform and environmental protection. We made improvements to our license branch operations and passed legislation that will protect consumers from annoying telephone calls with the establishment of a do-not-call list. I have described many of these new laws in the next few pages.

In addition, you will find a map of our new legislative district. We are required to redraw the district boundaries every 10 years due to population shifts. I welcome those of you who are new to the district and look forward to working with you in the coming months to make Indiana a better place to live.

Please contact my office if you have additional concerns or questions about state government. You may e-mail me at [H68@ai.org](mailto:H68@ai.org) or call toll-free at 1-800-382-9842.

Sincerely,

## CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE BISCHOFF



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# New budget increases school support, local development

Going into the 2001 legislative session, many observers felt that a sluggish economy would make it difficult to enact a biennial state budget without either passing a general tax increase or cutting funding for critical areas like public education. However, the budget bill that became law continues our record of avoiding general tax increases, while providing additional state support to our schools, health care and local projects.

The final version of House Enrolled Act 1001 enables the state to increase support for public schools across Indiana by an average of 3.5 percent each of the next two fiscal years, with minimum guarantees built in to help schools avoid cutting programs and personnel. Funding for higher education was increased by an average of 3.2 percent each year.

## Services and local development

The budget includes additional funding for the CHOICE program that provides in-home care services for the elderly and disabled, as well as Build Indiana Fund support for research and technology, community wastewater and drinking water grants, airport development and improvements to voting systems.

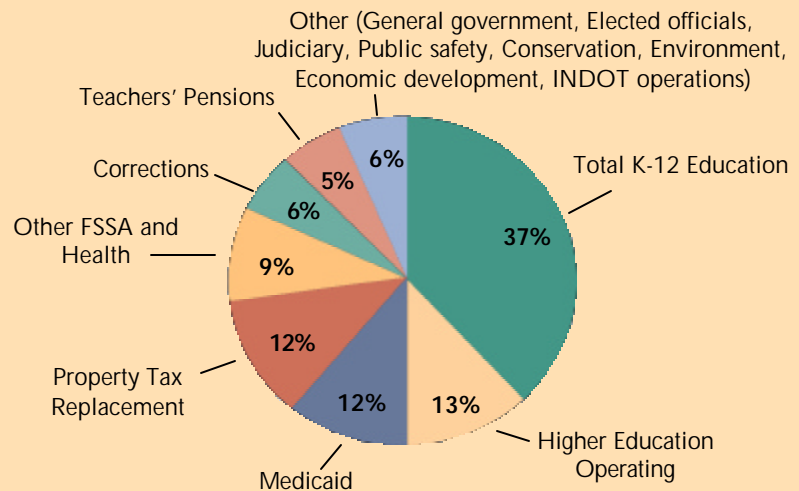
## Tax relief

It was disappointing that we were unable to provide the levels of tax relief that were included in past state budgets, but I am pleased that we were able to extend the life of the homestead credit at 10 percent and maintain the earned income tax credit that assists working families on lower incomes.

Businesses and farms will receive an income tax credit on personal property beginning in 2003, and mobile homes have been changed to be treated as real property with similar deductions. The budget bill continues to fund a statewide property tax relief program that now takes about 16 percent off all property taxes. When coupled with the 10 percent homestead credit, that translates to savings of around 26 percent.

A bill the size of the budget does not contain everything I would like, but considering the fiscal restraints facing legislators going into the 2001 session, I feel this budget is a major accomplishment.

## Spending highlights from the 2001-2003 budget



## State Fair, safety focus of Bischoff legislation



REP. BISCHOFF MEETS WITH GOV. O'BANNON

I was pleased this session to work on many bills that were passed into law. House Enrolled Act 1212, which I authored, makes the State Fair Advisory Committee accountable to taxpayers about the State Fair and the operation of the Fairgrounds. The State Fairgrounds is representative of Indiana, and we want Hoosiers to enjoy and be proud of it.

Safety issues are always a concern, and I was happy to work on two bills affecting our safety. HEA 1386 provides that a member of a volunteer fire department may display blue lights on his or her private vehicle while en route to a fire station or other emergency in the line of duty, and prohibits other citizens from displaying a blue light of any shape or size on their vehicle. Senate Enrolled Act 186, which I sponsored, requires a person to wear at least one orange-colored outer garment when hunting. Hunters who violate this provision would be subject to a Class D infraction.

Two other bills that I worked on relate to criminals. SEA 444 requires a prisoner detained in a county with a population of less than 6,000 to reimburse the county for the cost of detention if certain conditions are met. The money, at a maximum of \$50 a day, would go toward maintenance and housing of prisoners. SEA 445 permits a school, state or governmental entity to obtain the release of a limited criminal history for an applicant for employment with that entity. Because state and governmental employees have access to private and confidential information, and school employees care for our children, we think that a limited criminal history check is a sound measure.



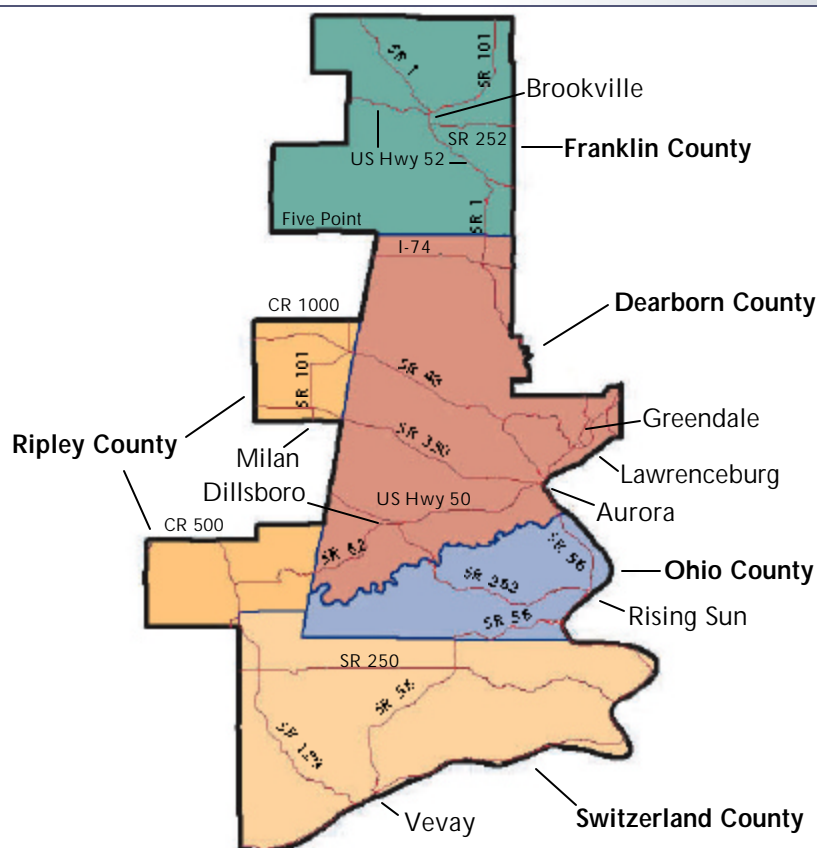
## Build Indiana Funds go to District 68

- Aurora Fire Dept., Dearborn Co.—\$50,000
- Blooming Grove Volunteer Fire Dept., Franklin Co.—\$25,000
- Brookville Fire Dept., Franklin Co.—\$50,000
- Cedar Grove Volunteer Fire Dept., Franklin Co.—\$75,000
- City of Aurora, Dearborn Co.—\$50,000
- Dillsboro Volunteer Fire Dept., Dearborn Co.—\$25,000
- East Enterprise Volunteer Fire Dept., Switzerland Co.—\$25,000
- Franklin Co. 4-H Association—\$100,000
- Franklin Co. EMS—\$50,000
- Franklin Co. roads—\$255,000
- Franklin Co. Rescue—\$75,000
- Greendale Volunteer Fire Dept., Dearborn Co.—\$50,000
- Hogan Township Volunteer Fire Dept.—\$25,000
- Life Time Resources, Dearborn Co.—\$25,000
- Manchester Township Volunteer Fire Dept., Dearborn Co.—\$25,000
- Milan 1954 Museum, Ripley Co.—\$30,000
- Miller-York Volunteer Fire Dept., Lawrenceburg, Dearborn Co.—\$15,000
- Moores Hill Fire Dept., Dearborn Co.—\$25,000
- Mount Carmel Police Dept.—\$20,000
- Ohio Co. Health Dept.—\$25,000
- Posey Township Volunteer Fire Dept.—\$5,000
- Rising Sun Emergency Services, Ohio Co.—\$50,000
- St. Leon Volunteer Fire Dept., Dearborn Co.—\$25,000
- St. Leon Police, Dearborn Co.—\$15,000
- Switzerland Co. YMCA—\$150,000



REP. BSCHOFF LEADS THE HOUSE WITH GREG ULLRICH, AURORA, IN. ULLRICH, HOUSE DEMOCRAT ATTORNEY, SERVED AS PARLIAMENTARIAN FOR REP. BSCHOFF ON THIS OCCASION.

## The new look of District 68



During this year's session you may have heard about redistricting in the news. After each census, the Indiana General Assembly is required by law to redraw House, Senate and Congressional district boundaries according to population changes.

Each district must have 60,000 people, which means that as the population moves to or from various parts of the state, boundaries shift to reflect that change. District boundaries are very complicated, and it took months of effort and plenty of debate among legislators. In the end, however, I feel that the district lines we have drawn are as fair as possible.

For both the current members and those new to the district, I look forward to serving you. Please contact me if you have questions about the district or any other matters.

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## Privacy from telemarketers and election reform

Stay informed about these  
and other issues online with  
Representative Bischoff



Web: [www.in.gov/R68](http://www.in.gov/R68)

E-mail: [H68@ai.org](mailto:H68@ai.org)

In 2001, lawmakers took steps to help reduce the interruption of telemarketers calling you at home. Through House Enrolled Act 1222, you will be able to have your name placed on a do-not-call list that will **prohibit most solicitors from contacting you via the telephone**. To be placed on the list, contact the Office of the Indiana Attorney General about the **Telephone Privacy List** at 1-888-834-9969.

In the wake of the confusion that took place in the presidential election in Florida last fall, lawmakers in Indiana moved quickly to enact reforms that will change the way we handle elections here.

Senate Enrolled Act 268 gives counties the ability to enter into agreements with the state to purchase **upgraded voting equipment**. This allows counties to take

advantage of the state's ability to purchase large amounts of equipment and materials at discounted prices. Funds contained in the biennial state budget will help the state provide 50 percent matching grants to further reduce those costs. The same legislation also **eliminates the use of punch-card voting** in future elections.

Through provisions contained in House Enrolled Act 1510, the state has moved closer to improving voter registration in Indiana. The Indiana Election Division will make a **voter registration form available on the Internet** that people can download, fill out and mail in to be processed. The legislation also strives to update lists of eligible voters by removing names of people who are deceased and convicted felons who are in prison.